

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 NEA-10 AF-08 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05

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R 240957Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1594

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1194

PASS INR/RAF (E.M.SCOTT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PFOR, LY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LIBYAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

REF: 74 KHARTOUM 2858, 75 KHARTOUM 0864

1. LIBYAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MOHAMMOD ALI AL-TABU

PAID VISIT TO SUDAN APRIL 15-23 IN CONNECTION WITH

FOUNDING OF JOINT "SUDANESE-LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY." CAPITALIZED AT LS 7 MILLION

(\$17.5 MILLION), OF WHICH GOS OWNS 51 PERCENT AND

LIBYA 49 PERCENT, COMPANY HAS LIBYAN CHAIRMAN, ALI

ABDALLA AL-FADAT, AND SUDANESE MANAGING DIRECTOR

KAMAL ALI BABIKIR. ONLY INFO ON COMPANY'S INTENDED

ACTIVITIES IS THAT IT WILL START IN SOUTHERN REGION

WITH CULTIVATION OF TEA AND RICE "AND DEVELOPMENT OF

NATURAL PLANT AND ANIMAL RESOURCES." PRODUCTION IS

EXPECTED TO SATISFY SUDANESE REQUIREMENTS, AND SURPLUS

IS TO BE EXPORTED TO LIBYA.

2. COMMENT: IN CONCEPT, NEW COMPANY CONFORMS TO THOSE

ALREADY LAUNCHED WITH KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, AND SAUDI ARABIA.

IDEA IS TO ATTRACT ARAB VENTURE CAPITAL INTO SUDAN IN

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FORM NOT ONLY OF EQUITY, BUT ALSO OF LOANS FOR PROJECTS

UNDERTAKEN BY COMPANY. (JOINT COMPANIES WITH EGYPT,

BEING PRODUCT OF "ECONOMIC INTEGRATION" PROGRAM AGREED TO
IN 1974, HAVE DIFFERENT MOTIVATION.) GOS'S DECISION PROCEED
DOWN SAME ROAD WITH LIBYANS DESPITE LATTER'S PROBLEMS WITH EGYPT
SUGGESTS OVERRIDING SUDANESE INTEREST IN A) EXPLORING
WAYS TO GAIN ACCESS TO LIBYA'S WEALTH AND B) MOLLIFYING
SOUTHERN REGION, WHICH, DESPITE LIMITED PROGRESS SINCE 1972,
HAS YET TO AROUSE ANY ENTHUSIASM AMONG PRIVATE INVESTORS.
AS FOR LIBYA'S GOALS, WE HOPE EMBASSY TRIPOLI MAY BE IN
POSITION TO COMMENT.
BREWER

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